



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 30 2019

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE
OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Updated Recusal Statement

FROM: Peter Wright
Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "P. Wright", is written over the typed name and title of the sender.

TO: Andrew R. Wheeler
Administrator

I have consulted with the Office of General Counsel/Ethics (OGC/Ethics) and been advised about my ethics obligations. This memorandum formally notifies you of my continuing obligation to recuse myself from participating personally and substantially in certain matters in which I have a financial interest, or a personal or business relationship. I also understand that I have obligations pursuant to Executive Order 13770 and the Trump Ethics Pledge that I signed, as well as my own bar obligations. This recusal statement supersedes my July 24, 2018 recusal statement for my prior position as Senior Advisor.

FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

I have consulted with OGC/Ethics and been advised that I do not currently have any significant financial conflicts of interest but will remain vigilant and notify OGC/Ethics immediately should my financial situation change.

OBLIGATIONS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 13770

Pursuant to Section 1, Paragraph 6 of the Executive Order, I understand that I have ethics obligations with respect to any former employer during the preceding two years, as well as any organization in which I held a fiduciary duty. For purposes of this restriction, the entities that fall within the prohibition are **Dow Inc.; DuPont de Nemours, Inc. (DuPont); Corteva¹; the National Association of Wabash Men; and the Lambda Chi Alpha Home Association of Wabash College.**

I understand that I am prohibited from participating in any particular matter involving specific parties in which any of the entities listed below is a party or represents a party. My recusal lasts for two years from the date that I joined federal service. I have been advised by OGC/Ethics that, for the purposes of this pledge obligation, the term "particular matters involving specific parties" is broadened to include any meetings or other communication relating to the performance of my official duties, unless the communication applies to a particular matter of general applicability and participation in the meeting or other event is open to all interested parties. I am further advised that the term "open to all interested parties" means five or more parties who represent a diversity of interests rather than one shared perspective.²

NAME OF ENTITY	DATE WHEN RECUSAL ENDS
Dow Inc.	July 8, 2020
DuPont	July 8, 2020
Corteva, Inc. ³	July 8, 2020
National Association of Wabash Men, Board of Directors	July 8, 2020
Lambda Chi Alpha Home Association of Wabash College	July 8, 2020

ATTORNEY BAR OBLIGATIONS

Pursuant to my obligations under my bar rules, I recognize that I am obliged to protect the confidences of my former clients. I also understand that I cannot participate in any matter that is the same as or substantially related to the same specific party matter that I participated in personally and substantially while in private practice, unless my bar provides for and I first

¹ In 2019, DowDuPont separated into three independent companies: Dow, DuPont and Corteva. Although the creation of Corteva occurred after I left the company, I am nevertheless including it on my recusal list to avoid even the appearance of an ethics issue while I am the Assistant Administrator for OLEM.

² I understand that such meetings "do not have to be open to every corner, but should include a multiplicity of parties. For example, if an agency is holding a meeting with five or more stakeholders regarding a given policy or piece of legislation, [then I] could attend such a meeting even if one of the stakeholders is a former employer or former client." See Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Advisory DO-09-011 (3/26/09), which applies to Exec. Order 13770 pursuant to OGE Legal Advisory LA-17-03 (3/20/17).

³ Although OGC/Ethics does not anticipate that this company is likely to present any issues in OLEM, I am including it out of an abundance of caution.

obtain informed consent and notify OGC/Ethics.

SUPERFUND SITES

To avoid any concerns about my ethical obligations, I am affirming that I will not participate in any matters related to any Superfund sites at which my former employers are a potentially responsible party. Consistent with my attorney bar rules, I will not participate in any matter that I previously worked on personally and substantially. For any of the sites involving my former employers that I did not previously work on personally and substantially, I will not participate in matters for those sites until after July 8, 2020, consistent with my obligations under the federal ethics regulations and Executive Order 13770.

SCREENING ARRANGEMENT

In order to ensure that I do not participate in particular matters addressed in this recusal statement, I will instruct Barry Breen and/or Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrators, to assist in screening EPA matters directed to my attention that involve those entities or sites. All inquiries and comments involving the entities or Superfund sites on my recusal list should be directed to Mr. Breen or Mr. Cook without my knowledge or involvement until after my recusal period ends.

If Mr. Breen or Mr. Cook determine that a particular matter will directly involve any of the entities or matters listed on my "specific party" recusal list, then they will refer it for action or assignment to another, without my knowledge or involvement. In the event that they are unsure whether an issue is a particular matter from which I am recused, then they will consult with OGC/Ethics for a determination. I will provide a copy of this memorandum to my principal subordinates with a copy to the Designated Agency Ethics Official and the Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official.

UPDATE AS NECESSARY

In consultation with OGC/Ethics, I will revise and update my recusal statement whenever warranted by changed circumstances, including changes in my financial interests such as the sale of the above-mentioned stock, changes in my personal or business relationships, or any changes to my EPA duties. In the event of any changes, I will provide a copy of the revised recusal statement to you and OGC/Ethics.

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Barry Breen, Deputy Assistant Administrator
Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrator
David Cozad, Acting Designated Agency Ethics Official
Justina Fugh, Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official